

D-636

"Helsby Tavern"  
East New Market  
private

1864

The two-story side hall/parlor house that stands on the south side of Railroad Avenue near the main intersection of East New Market has been named for Thomas "Red Head" Helsby, who is thought to have operated on tavern is this structure. The house is designated on this lot under the ownership of Dr. J. R. Phillips in 1877.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. D-636

Magi No. 1006362504

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common "HELSEY TAVERN"

## 2. Location

street & number Railroad Avenue ☐ not for publicationcity, town East New Market ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Dorchester

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. and Mrs. Charles Blake, Jr.

street &amp; number Railroad Avenue telephone no.:

city, town East New Market state and zip code MD 21631

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester Clerk of County Court liber

street &amp; number Dorchester County Courthouse folio

city, town Cambridge state MD 21613

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory

date 1985 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state MD 21401

## 7. Description

Survey No. D-636

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The house that has been known as the "Helsby Tavern" stands on the south side of Railroad Avenue near the main intersection of East New Market, Dorchester County, Maryland. The two-story side hall/parlor house faces north with the gable oriented on an east/west axis.

Built in 1864, the two-story, three-bay frame house is supported by a minimal brick foundation and is sheathed with plain weatherboards. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the house is a two-story one-bay rear wing that is extended farther south by a two-story, shed-roofed addition.

The north (main) elevation is an asymmetrical three-bay facade with a east side entrance and flanking six-over-six sash windows. The glazed front door is flanked by two-light sidelights and a three-light transom. The adjacent windows are framed by louvered shutters. Stretching across the first floor is a Tuscan columned, hip roof porch. The second floor is lighted by three six-over-six sash windows also hung with louvered shutters.

The gable ends are pierced by six-over-six sash windows, while small three-pane windows light the attic. An interior end brick stack formerly rose through the west gable end, but it has been removed above the roofline. The eaves are slightly extended with short returns at the base.

The south side of the front block is largely covered by the two-story one-bay rear wing that is enlarged by a two-story shed roofed section farther south. A partially enclosed shed roofed porch stretches across the north side of the service wing.

The interior was unseen.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. D-636

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1864 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The two-story side hall/parlor house that is known as "Helsby Tavern" is reported to have been built in 1864. The weatherboard frame house is a typical form for the Civil War era with its sidelighted entrance and six-over-six sash windows. The house is designated on the 1877 town map under the ownership of Dr. J. R. Phillips.



MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
21 STATE CIRCLE  
SHAW HOUSE  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET  
Individual Structure Survey Form

SURVEY NUMBER: D-687 11-634

NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:

UTM REFERENCES:

Zone/Easting/Northing

U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:

PRESENT FORMAL NAME:

ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME:

PRESENT USE:

ORIGINAL USE:

ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:

BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:

THOMAS HELSBY

PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE:

Excellent ( )

Good (X)

Fair ( )

Poor: ( )

THEME:

STYLE:

DATE BUILT: 1864

COUNTY: Dorchester

TOWN: East New Market

LOCATION: Railroad Avenue  
Route 14

East New Market

COMMON NAME:

"Red Head" Thomas Helsby Tavern

FUNCTIONAL TYPE: dwelling/ residential

OWNER: Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Blake

ADDRESS: same as above

ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:

Yes (X)

No ( )

Restricted ( )

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Local (X)

State ( )

National ( )

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Structural System

1. Foundation: Stone ( ) Brick (X) Concrete ( ) Concrete Block ( )

2. Wall Structure

A. Wood Frame: Post and Beam (X) Balloon ( )

B. Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick ( ) Stone ( ) Concrete ( ) Concrete Block ( )

C. Iron ( ) D. Steel ( ) E. Other:

3. Wall Covering: Clapboard (X) Board and Batten ( ) Wood Shingle ( ) Shiplap ( )  
Novelty ( ) Stucco ( ) Sheet Metal ( ) Aluminum ( ) Asphalt Shingle ( )  
Brick Veneer ( ) Stone Veneer ( )

Bonding Pattern:

Other:

4. Roof Structure

A. Truss: Wood ( ) Iron ( ) Steel ( ) Concrete ( )

B. Other:

5. Roof Covering: Slate ( ) Wood Shingle ( ) Asphalt Shingle (X) Sheet Metal ( )  
Built Up ( ) Rolled ( ) Tile ( ) Other:

6. Engineering Structure:

7. Other:

Appendages: Porches (X) Towers ( ) Cupolas ( ) Dormers ( ) Chimneys ( ) Sheds ( ) Ells ( )  
Wings ( ) Other:

Roof Style: Gable (X) Hip ( ) Shed ( ) Flat ( ) Mansard ( ) Gambrel ( ) Jerkinhead ( )  
Saw Tooth ( ) With Monitor ( ) With Bellcast ( ) With Parapet ( ) With False Front ( )  
Other:

Number of Stories: 2 1/2

Number of Bays: 3

Approximate Dimensions: 3 X 3 BAYS

Entrance Location: 1ST

THREAT TO STRUCTURE:

No Threat ( ) Zoning ( ) Roads ( )

Development ( ) Deterioration ( )

Alteration (X) Other:

LOCAL ATTITUDES:

Positive (X) Negative ( )

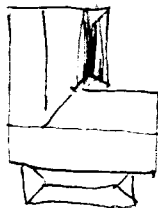
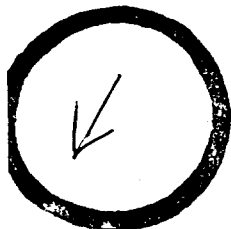
Mixed ( ) Other:

RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

REFERENCES:

MAP: (Indicate North In Circle)



SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

Open Lane( )Woodland( )Scattered Buildings( )  
 Moderately Built Up(x)Densely Built Up( )  
 Residential( )Commercial( )  
 Agricultural( )Industrial( )  
 Roadside Strip Development( )  
 Other:

RECORDED BY:

East New Market Historic District Commission

ORGANIZATION:

Summer, 1985

DATE RECORDED:

Sara Rossing

PROPERTY OF MR. AND MRS. CHARLES ALTON BLAKE, JR.

2½ story, gabled, asphalt tile roof. L-shaped with original clapboard and corner boards. American bond brick foundation.

Front facade is 3 bay; entrance in 1st. There is an open veranda supported by four round columns. Original door has a light at the top with two recessed panels at the bottom. There is a 3-pane transom and a 2-pane side light on each side over recessed panels. Windows 6 over 6. Boxed cornices with returns. Two small 3-pane windows in ½ story. Main block on right is 2 bay with 1 bay in addition. On the left is a 1 story extension with shed roof which appears to have been an open porch. There is a variety of window sizes and styles. One chimney in rear. A 2-story addition with shed roof in rear. Attractively landscaped.

OUTBUILDINGS

Shed tin roof; 1 by 1 bay. Open rafters. A 6-pane sliding window. Door has 3 vertical lights over recessed horizontal wooden panels. Vertical boards have been covered. This, now <sup>1</sup>storage shed, once housed chickens.

RESEARCH

According to tax records, this house was built in 1864 by Thomas Helsby, known as "Red Headed Thomas Helsby." (There must have been more than one Thomas Helsby, so this was an identification).

Thomas Helsby had purchased the land from John Webster, who had power of attorney to settle the estate of his mother, Rachel Webster, widow of Thomas Webster. (FJH 5/ 144-145 Nov. 18, 1861).

The land history of course goes back to the Sullivane family of "Preston Vale," now "Friendship Hall" and still further back to the Anderton family, the Teylor family and the original grant holders.

Note: FROM BETWEEN THE NANTICOKE AND THE CHOPTANK  
"RED HEAD" Thomas Helsby Tavern, East New Market, 1863, Private.

This house was built in 1863 by Thomas Helsby, known to his contemporaries as "Red Head," to distinguish him from another villager of the same name. During the nineteenth century it saw several uses, principally as a tavern.

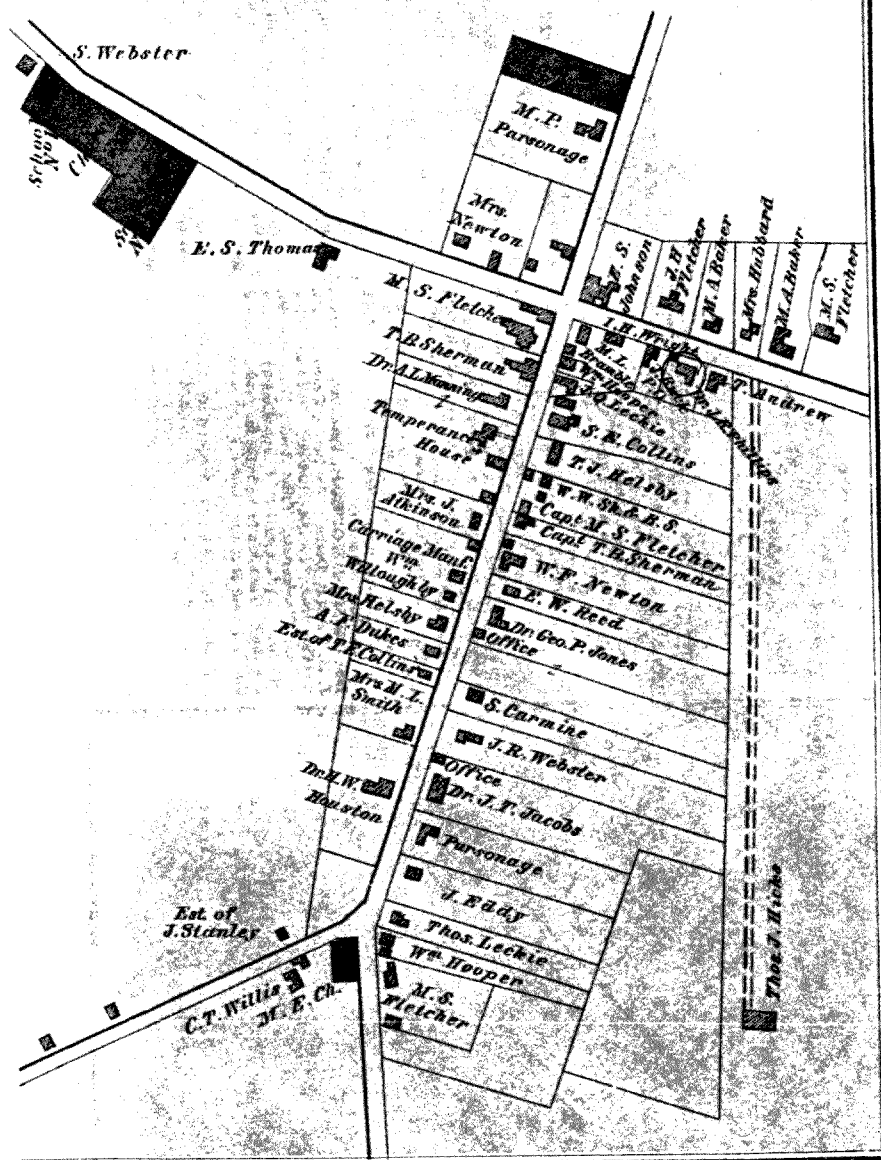


D-636  
EAST NEW MARKET QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



DORCHESTER CO.

(East New Market Dist.)



**J. W. ANDREWS**, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hats, Caps, Boots, Shoes, Hardware, Queensware, Cutlery, Tinware, Ready Made Clothing, Harness, Notions, and all other articles usually kept in a country store. Residence and Store, Cabin Creek, Md.

**K. B. FLETCHER**, Proprietor of the "Upper Cabin Creek" Flouring Mill. Merchant and Custom work done. Wheat and Corn bought at all times. Cabin Creek.

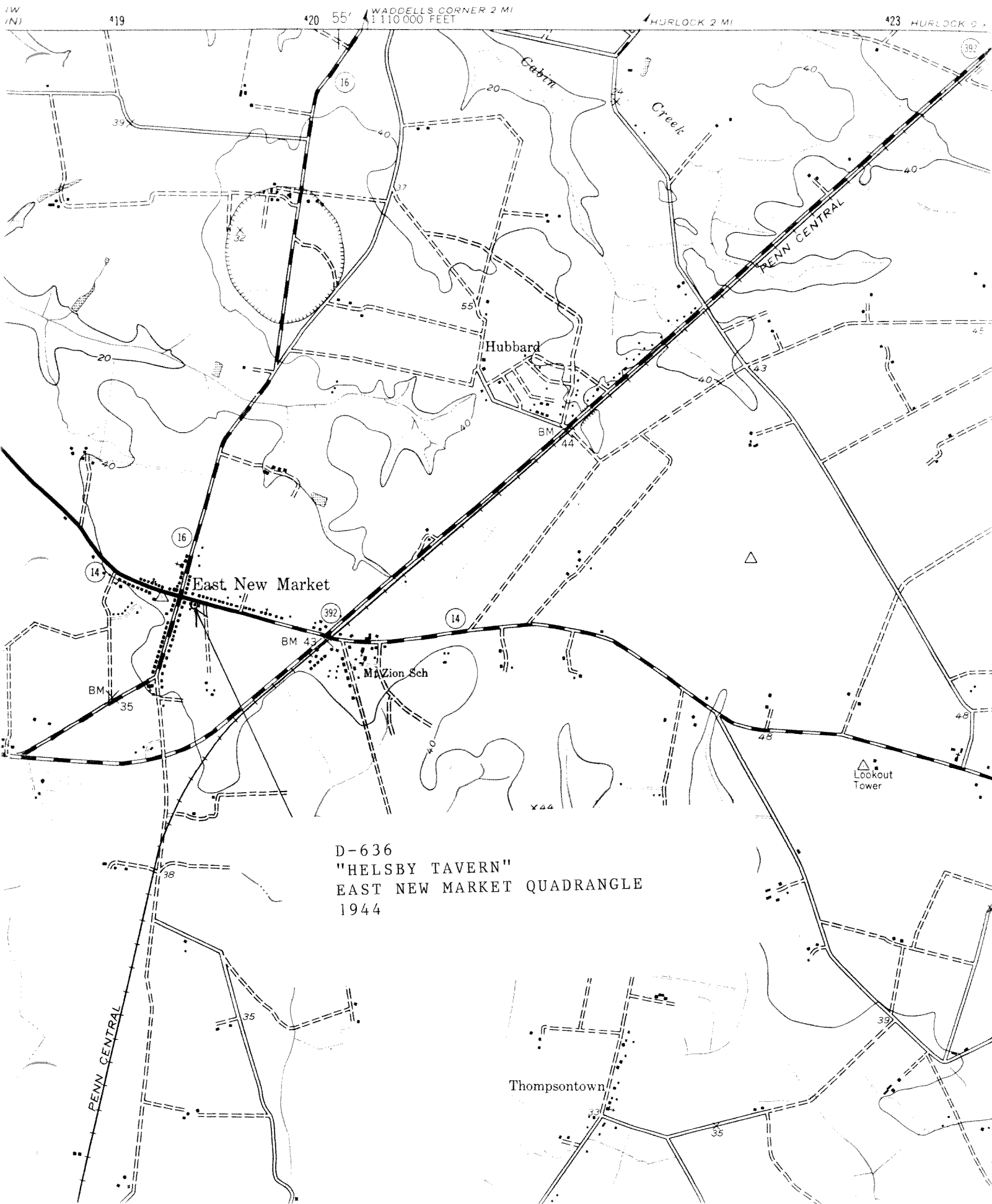
**B. F. SHERMAN**, Proprietor of "Lower Cabin Creek Mills." Merchant and Custom work done. Highest cash prices for Wheat and Corn. Also constable of East New Market District. P. O. East New Market.

**JAMES H. KELLY**, Proprietor of "Little Brick Mill." Custom work done at all times and in a satis-

**W. S. POTTER & SON.,** Proprietors of "Holly Grove Canning Factory." All kinds of Fruits canned, and kept on hand, and for sale at all times; Warranted as marked. Peaches a specialty. Residence and Canning Factory near East New Market, Dorchester County, Md.

**H. W. HOUSTON**, Dealer in Drugs, Medicines,  
Chemicals, Oils, Varnishes, Dye Stuffs, Fancy and  
Toilet Articles. *See page 10.*

EAST NEW MARKET QUADRANGLE  
MARYLAND  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



D-636  
"HELSEBY TAVERN"  
EAST NEW MARKET QUADRANGLE  
1944



D-636

HELSEBY TAVERN

East New Market, Dorchester Co., MD

Northwest elevation

12/87 Paul Touart photographer

Negative/MD Historical Trust



D-636

"Red Head"

Thomas Helsby Tavern

49%